

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming system, comprising:  
an image forming apparatus body for forming an image on a cut sheet; and  
a single-sheet processing machine selectively attached to the image forming apparatus body and ~~configured to attach another~~ attached to a postprocessing [[unit]] machine arranged at a downstream [[side]] position with respect to the single-sheet processing machine,

wherein the single-sheet processing machine has ~~a plurality~~ at least two or more types of mechanisms including postprocessing units, the units including a punching unit configured to punch sheets in units of a sheet for punching sections of the cut sheet, a folding unit configured to fold sheets in units of a sheet for folding sections of the cut sheet, a perforator configured to perforate sheets in units of a sheet for perforating sections of the cut sheet, and a cutter configured to cut sheets in units of a sheet for cutting sections of the cut sheet, and

wherein the single-sheet processing machine includes a sheet attachment unit ~~configured to attach~~ for attaching a cover sheet or an insert sheet to ~~an output sheet a~~ bulk of the cut sheets.

2. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has all single-sheet processing mechanisms configured to post-process sheet in units of a sheet as performed by the image forming system.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a single-sheet processing carry-in unit for receiving a sheet conveyed from the image forming apparatus body and a single-sheet processing carry-out unit for discharging the sheet to any other postprocessing unit, wherein the single-sheet processing machine is directly attached to the image forming apparatus body without intervention of any other postprocessing unit.

5. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 1, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has the punching unit and the folding unit, the folding unit arranged on the downstream side of the punching unit in the sheet conveying direction.

6. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 1,  
wherein said single-sheet processing machine includes:  
a single-sheet processing carry-in unit for receiving a sheet conveyed from said image forming apparatus body;

a single-sheet processing carry-out unit for discharging the sheet to any other postprocessing unit;

a first processing unit for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet;

a second processing unit for postprocessing sheet in units of a sheet, the second processing unit arranged on the downstream side of the first processing unit in the sheet conveying direction;

a first conveying path for conveying the sheet received by the single-sheet processing carry-in unit to the single-sheet processing carry-out unit without intervention of the first processing unit and the second processing unit;

a second conveying path for conveying the sheet received by the single-sheet processing carry-in unit to the first processing unit;

a third conveying path for conveying the sheet from the first processing unit to said second processing unit; and

a fourth conveying path for conveying the sheet from the second processing unit to the first conveying path.

7. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein the third conveying path of said single-sheet processing machine has a third A conveying path for conveying a sheet having a length no more than a predetermined length in the sheet feeding direction to the second processing unit and a third B conveying path for conveying a sheet having a length more than the predetermined length in the sheet feeding direction to the second processing unit.

8. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a fifth conveying path for conveying the cover sheets or the insert sheets from the sheet attachment unit to the first conveying path.

9. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 8, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a branching portion where the conveying path branches out into the first conveying path and the second conveying path on the downstream side of the single-sheet processing carry-in unit in the sheet conveying direction and a joining portion where the fifth conveying path joins the first conveying path on the upstream side of the branching portion in the sheet conveying direction.

10. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 6, wherein said single-sheet processing machine has a single-sheet processing discharge unit for discharging remaining sheets in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition and a sixth conveying path for conveying sheets from the first conveying path to the single-sheet processing discharge unit.

11. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising an edge stapling machine configured to bind a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets at an edge thereof,

wherein said edge stapling machine has an edge stapling carry-in unit for receiving sheets conveyed from the single-sheet processing machine or from any other postprocessing unit, and

the edge stapling machine is attached at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.

12. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has at least one of a stapler of stapling the sheet bulk, a tape binder of tape-binding the sheet bulk, and a pasting binder of pasting the sheet bulk, for the edge binding of the sheet bulk.

13. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has an open discharge unit for discharging the sheet bulk made of a plurality of bound sheets at the side of the image forming system, and is attachable in the most downstream of the image forming system in the sheet conveying direction.

14. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 11, wherein said edge stapling machine has an edge stapling discharge unit for discharging remaining sheets in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition.

15. (Currently amended) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising:

a center stitching machine for folding and stitching ~~a sheet~~ the bulk made of a plurality of sheets, of the cut sheets, the center stitching machine attached to the single-sheet processing machine at a downstream position with respect to a sheet conveying direction,

wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the center stitching machine ~~[[has]]~~ includes a center stitching carry-in unit, ~~configured to receive~~ for receiving sheets conveyed from the single-sheet processing machine or any other postprocessing unit attached at ~~[[the]]~~ an upstream side in position with respect to the sheet conveying direction, and a center stitching carry-out unit, ~~configured to convey~~ for conveying sheets to any other postprocessing unit attached at the downstream side in position with respect to the sheet conveying direction, and

~~said center stitching machine is attached at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.~~

16. (Currently amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the center stitching machine ~~[[has]]~~ includes a stapling mechanism ~~configured to stitch a sheet~~ for stitching the bulk made of a plurality of sheets of the cut sheets.

17. (Currently amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the center stitching machine ~~[[has]]~~ includes a folding unit ~~configured to fold a~~ for folding the stitched ~~[[sheet]]~~ bulk ~~made of a plurality of sheets~~ of the cut sheets and a

sheet trimmer ~~configured to cut a~~ for cutting the folded ~~[[sheet]]~~ bulk ~~made of a plurality of sheets~~ of the cut sheets.

18. (Currently amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the center stitching machine ~~[[has]]~~ includes a center stitching discharge unit ~~configured to discharge remaining~~ for discharging sheets remaining in the image forming system ~~at an occurrence of~~ during a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet used for ~~use in~~ checking an image recording condition.

19. (Currently amended) The image forming system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the center stitching machine ~~[[has]]~~ includes a center-stitched sheet stacking unit ~~where a center-stitched sheet bulk is placed and which is movable relative to the center stitching machine body~~ movable relative to the center stitching machine for stacking the center stitched bulk of the cut sheets.

20. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 1, further comprising a case binding machine configured to case-bind a sheet bulk made of a plurality of sheets with a cover sheet,

wherein said case binding machine is attached at the downstream side of said single-sheet processing machine in the sheet conveying direction.

21. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a pasting unit of pasting the sheet bulk or a stapling unit of binding the sheet bulk.

22. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case-bound sheet cutting unit configured to cut the case-bound sheet bulk.

23. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case binding discharge unit for discharging remaining sheet in the image forming system at an occurrence of a sheet jam or a test-recorded sheet for use in checking an image recording condition.

24. (Withdrawn) The image forming system of claim 20, wherein said case binding machine has a case-bound sheet stacking unit where a case-bound sheet bulk is placed and which is movable relative to the case binding machine body.

25-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn — Previously presented) A single-sheet processing machine which is attachable to an image forming apparatus body and is configured to attach another postprocessing unit at a downstream side, having a plurality of mechanisms including a punching unit configured to punch sheets in units of a sheet, a folding unit



configured to fold sheets in units of a sheet, a perforator configured to perforate sheets in units of a sheet, and a cutter configured to cut sheets in units of a sheet, and

a sheet attachment unit configured to attach a cover sheet or an insert sheet to an output sheet bulk.